

Claims

- [c1] 1.A retractable knife sharpener comprising:
an ergonomically shaped handle having an internal hollowed portion and an opening at one end thereof in communication with the hollowed portion;
a sled slideably received within the hollowed portion and having an outer end and an inner end;
and
a sharpening structure carried by the sled at its outer end;
wherein the sled is selectively positionable, relative to the handle, between a retracted position enclosing the sharpening structure and an extended position exposing the sharpening structure.
- [c2] The sharpener as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sharpening structure includes a pull-through type sharpener.
- [c3] The sharpener as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sharpening structure includes an elongated slot and a plurality of sharpening members that are situated relative to each other to form a substantially V-shaped groove.
- [c4] The sharpener as claimed in claim 3 wherein the sharp-

ening members include ceramic rods.

- [c5] The sharpener as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sled includes a retaining mechanism disposed on the inner end for retainable engagement with the housing.
- [c6] The sharpener as claimed in claim 5 wherein the retaining mechanism retainably engages the housing in the extended position.
- [c7] The sharpener as claimed in claim 5 wherein the retaining mechanism retainably engages the housing in the retracted position.
- [c8] The sharpener as claimed in claim 5 wherein the retaining mechanism includes a resilient member extending from the sled and having a first detent structure disposed thereon.
- [c9] The sharpener as claimed in claim 8 wherein the housing includes a complementary second detent structure for retainable engagement with the first detent structure.
- [c10] The sharpener as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sled includes a sled guide.
- [c11] The sharpener as claimed in claim 10 wherein the handle includes an aperture for digital interaction with the sled guide.

[c12] The sharpener as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle includes a grip enhancing material.

[c13] A knife sharpener comprising:

a handle having an internal hollowed portion and an opening at one end thereof in communication with the hollowed portion;

a sled slideably received within the hollowed portion and having inner and outer ends and selectively positionable between retracted and extracted positions relative to the handle; and

a pull-through type sharpening structure disposed on the outer end and having an elongated slot terminating with a plurality of sharpening members situated relative to each other to form a substantially V-shaped groove.

[c14] The sharpener as claimed in claim 13 wherein the handle is ergonomically shaped.

[c15] The sharpener as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sharpening members are ceramic rods.

[c16] The sharpener as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sled includes a retaining mechanism disposed on the inner end for retainable engagement with the housing.

- [c17] The sharpener as claimed in claim 16 wherein the retaining mechanism retainably engages the housing in the extended position.
- [c18] The sharpener as claimed in claim 16 wherein the retaining mechanism retainably engages the housing in the retracted position.
- [c19] 1.The sharpener as claimed in claim 16 wherein the retaining mechanism includes a resilient member extending from the sled and having a first detent structure disposed thereon.
- [c20] The sharpener as claimed in claim 19 wherein the housing includes a complementary second detent structure for retainable engagement with the first detent structure.
- [c21] The sharpener as claimed in claim 16 wherein the sled includes a sled guide.
- [c22] The sharpener as claimed in claim 21 wherein the handle includes an aperture for digital interaction with the sled guide.
- [c23] The sharpener as claimed in claim 13 wherein the handle includes a grip enhancing material.